

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 22 of the publication of the specification as follows:

As for the slit 14, a virtual region ~~central~~ angle formed by the two radius lines around the rotation center is substantially  $34^\circ$  and is divided in terms of the virtual region ~~central~~ angle into three sections, forward small-diameter portion 14a, central inclined portion 14b and rearward large-diameter portion 14c, which are formed continuously as viewed from the forward side in the rotation direction. A radius of the forward small-diameter portion 14a is substantially  $0.64r$  and a radius of the rearward large diameter portion 14c is substantially  $0.76r$ . Here, "r" indicates a radius of a maximum gullet bottom radius of the base metal 11, that is, a radius from the center of the base metal to a root of the tooth 12. The central inclined portion 14b is disposed obliquely between the forward small-diameter portion 14a and the rearward large-diameter portion 14c and a joint portion which is a boundary between the forward small-diameter portion 14a and the rearward large-diameter portion 14c is formed into an arc shape. As a consequence, the position of the central concentric circle 13e in the radius direction (position in the radius direction) located in the center of an interval between the two concentric circles 13c and 13d forming the virtual region 13 is  $0.7r$ .